



STATE OF UTAH
NATURAL RESOURCES
Oil, Gas & Mining

ACT/045/017

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Norman H. Bangerter, Governor
Dee C. Hansen, Executive Director
Dianne R. Nielson, Ph.D., Division Director

355 W. North Temple • 3 Triad Center • Suite 350 • Salt Lake City, UT 84180-1203 • 801-538-5340

October 14, 1986

CERTIFIED RETURN RECEIPT REQUESTED
(P 402 458 647)

Mr. Glen M. Eurick
Environmental and Occupational
Health Coordinator
Barrick Mercur Gold Mines, Inc.
P.O. Box 838
Tooele, Utah 84074

Glen
Dear Mr. Eurick:

RE: Tentative Conditional Approval, MRP Amendment Plans, Mercur Canyon Project, Marion Hill, Golden Gate, and Sacramento Pits, Barrick Mercur Gold Mines, Inc., ACT/045/017, Tooele County, Utah

The Division has completed a review of the latest response provided by Barrick Mercur Gold Mines, Inc. (received 9/24/86), regarding our August 7, 1986 deficiency review letter. The Division is prepared to grant tentative approval with conditions to the MRP amendment plans. Conditions to tentative approval are as follows:

1. Upon cessation of mining operations, the Operator shall submit to the Division a complete surface contour map of the mining operations.
2. Variance from Rule M-10(3) is approved by the Division. Based on final configuration of the pits or other impoundments left upon completion of mining operations, the Division or other agencies may require that designs and mitigation plans be submitted and approved for construction. Such plans may be required for mitigation to provide for the general health and safety of the public, to provide or prevent access of wildlife to waters impounded in the pits, or other such requirements to make the area suitable for the post mining land use. The Division concurs that final designs or determination of the location and conditions of impoundments of the pits cannot be determined until the pits have achieved their economic limits and providing such designs or details would prove of little use at this time.

Page 2
Mr. Glen Eurick
ACT/045/017
October 14, 1986

3. The Division hereby grants variance to Rule M-10(5) regarding the pits slopes for the mining operation. Subject to review of the drawing required in Condition 1, the Division shall determine whether or not additional stability analysis will be required upon cessation of mining operations. In the event the slope or conditions found in the final configuration of the pit differ significantly from those proposed in the MRP, the Division shall require Mercur to submit further stability analysis at that time to indicate mass stability of the pit slopes. In the event that conditions of the slopes of pits do not differ significantly upon cessation of mining operations, no additional analysis will be required.

During operations, it is expected continuing design and operation of the pit facilities will be within acceptable limits for final pit stability and such additional analysis will most likely not be necessary.

4. Approval of the Meadow Canyon Reservoir shall be subject to review and approval of the State Engineer. Upon approval by the State Engineer, Mercur shall submit a copy of the approval to the Division. Construction and operation of the Meadow Canyon Reservoir shall be subject to approved plans and conditions stipulated by the State Engineer's Office.

Unless written notice is received to the contrary, the Division will assume the operator accepts conditions as outlined above. The Division will now proceed with formal public notice for this significant permit change. Upon completion of the 30-day public notice period and receipt of revised reclamation surety contract, the Division will issue final approval for this proposal. Please feel free to contact me should you have any further questions regarding this tentative approval.

Sincerely,



L. P. Braxton
Administrator
Mineral Resource Development
and Reclamation Program

JRH:djh
cc: H. Hedrick, BLM
M. Maxell, Health
S. Linnner
R. Harden
W. Hedberg
1011R/96